Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 01838 281506Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 NIC-01 EB-07 COME-00

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4077
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL KRAKOW
AMCONSUL POZNAN

CONFIDENTIAL WARSAW 1838

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, ECON, PL

SUBJECT: PREMIER DEFENDS ECONOMIC POLICIES

REF: WARSAW 1503 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN SURPRISINGLY DEFENSIVE TERMS PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ ASSESSED THE REGIME'S CURRENT INVESTMENT POLICIES AT A SEJM SESSION MARCH 26. THE LENGTHS TO WHICH HE WENT TO JUSTIFY THE REGIME'S APPROACH AND, PARTICULARLY, ITS UPWARD REVISION OF MANY GOALS SINCE THE SIXTH CONGRESS IN 1971 GIVE THE IMPRESSION HE WAS ADDRESSING SPECIFIC CRITICISM NOT ONLY FROM THE PUBLIC BUT POSSIBLY FROM WITHIN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AS WELL. JAROSZEWICZ'S DEFENSIVE TONE IS THE MORE STRIKING IN LIGHT OF VICE PREMIER JAGIELSKI'S REPORTING AT THE OPENING OF THE SEJM SESSION ON THE IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS WHICH, AS ONE EDITORIAL NOTED, HAVE GIVEN POLAND STATISTICALLY ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST RAPIDLY DEVELOPING ECONOMIES. ALTHOUGH THE PREMIER ESSENTIALLY REAFFIRMED THE BASIC DIRECTIONS CHARTED BY THE GIEREK REGIME CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01838 281506Z

AND STRONGLY SUGGESTED THEY WOULD BE CONTINUED BY THE SEV-

ENTH CONGRESS WHICH MEETS LATE THIS YEAR, HIS DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE SUGGESTS THAT HARD QUESTIONS ARE BEING RAISED AS THE CONGRESS APPROACHES. END SUMMARY.

- 2. THE MAIN POINTS JAROSZEWICZ DEFENDED WERE THE REGIME'S POLICY OF HEAVY FOREIGN INDEBTEDNESS AND THE HIGH RATE OF INVESTMENTS. THOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING DIFFICULTIES IN THE INVESTMENT PROGRAM, HE EMPHASIZED THAT STRAINS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACCOMPANY A POLICY OF DYNAMIC GROWTH. NEITHER HE NOR JAGIELSKI MENTIONED THE RECENT MEAT CRISIS (REFTEL).
- 3. REGARDING CREDITS, HE CLAIMED THAT POLAND IS SEEKING LOANS AT FAVORABLE WORLD RATES AND THAT THESE ARE CAREFULLY UTILIZED TO SUPPLEMENT DOMESTIC MEANS. HECATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THE RATION OF CREDITS TO EXPORT EARNINGS HAS EXCEEDED GENERALLY ACCEPTED LIMITS. JAROSZEWICZ VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED THE REGIME'S STRONG EMPHASIS ON INVESTMENT, DECLARING THAT, HAD THE REGIME NOT INCREASED ITS INVESTMENT GOALS, THE CURRENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING WOULD BE ONLY WEAKLY BASED.
- 4. COMMENT: DESPITE EVIDENT CRITICISM OF THE GIEREK RE-GIME'S ECONOMIC POLICIES, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF THE FORMATION OF ANY POLITICAL FACTIONS AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP. THE CRITICISM APPEARS TO INVOLVE MAINLY THE RAISING OF HARD QUESTIONS OF ECONOMICS, AND THEY MAY BE COMING MORE FROM THE TECHNOCRATS THAT THE POLITICIANS. DURING THE PRE-CONGRESS STOCK-TAKING THAT IS NOW CLEARLY UNDERWAY, HOWEVER, THE DISCUSSION COULD BECOME HEATED. IF IT IS ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY FURTHER ECONOMIC CRISES SUCH AS OCCURRED LAST MONTH WITH MEAT, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICKING AND FACTIONALISM WOULD RISE ACCORDINGLY. DAVIES

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